

This listing of claims is the same as all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

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Listing of Claims:

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Claim 1 (Original) A method for therapeutically treating a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a medical device delivery system having an inner shaft and a tubular outer sheath, each with proximal and distal ends; a handle near the proximal ends of the inner shaft and outer sheath; a medical device for delivery by the delivery system and for performing a therapeutic procedure at a desired site for treatment; a delivery mechanism for selectively and progressively pulling the outer sheath in the proximal direction to release the medical device; and a locking member that holds the delivery mechanism in an initial configuration, the locking member tending to releasably resist inadvertent release of the medical device by the delivery mechanism;

wherein the medical device is positioned within the outer sheath in an initial configuration; wherein the handle has a first and second independently movable actuator coupled to the delivery mechanism;

(b) inserting the medical device delivery system along a body passage until the medical device is positioned at or near the desired site for treatment;

(c) unlocking the locking member;

(d) moving the first actuator a first selected amount; such movement of the first actuator causing the outer sheath to move an amount in the proximal direction at a first proportional rate in a precise manner, and causing the outer sheath to partially release the medical device;

(e) moving the second actuator, causing the outer sheath to move in the proximal direction at a second greater proportional rate in a rapid manner, to fully release the medical device; and

(f) withdrawing and removing the medical device delivery system from the body passage, and allowing the medical device to remain at the desired site for treatment.

Claim 2 (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising, between steps (d) and (e), the additional steps of: evaluating in greater detail the position of the medical device compared to the position of the desired site to be treated; and adjusting the position of the medical device delivery system based on the evaluation.

Claim 3 (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the medical device is a self-expanding stent.

Claim 4 (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the locking member is adapted to unlock only once.

Claim 5 (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the locking member breaks during said unlocking step (c).

Claim 6 (Original) A method for therapeutically treating a patient, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a medical device delivery system having an inner shaft and a tubular outer sheath, each with proximal and distal ends; a handle near the proximal ends of the inner shaft and outer sheath; a medical device for delivery by the delivery system and for performing a therapeutic procedure at a desired site for treatment; a delivery mechanism for selectively and progressively pulling the outer sheath in the proximal direction to release the medical device; and a locking member that holds the delivery mechanism in an initial configuration, the locking member tending to releasably resist inadvertent release of the medical device by the delivery mechanism;

wherein the medical device is positioned within the outer sheath in an initial configuration; the handle has a first and second independently movable actuator coupled to the delivery mechanism; the first actuator is a rotatable knob; and the second actuator is a longitudinal slider;

(b) inserting the medical device delivery system along a body passage until the medical device is positioned at or near the desired site for treatment;

(c) unlocking the locking member;

(d) rotating the first actuator a selected amount; such rotation of the first actuator causing the outer sheath to move an amount in the proximal direction at a first proportional rate in a precise manner, and causing the outer sheath to partially release the medical device;

(e) sliding the second actuator longitudinally, causing the outer sheath to move in the proximal direction at a second greater proportional rate in a rapid manner, to fully release the medical device; and

(f) withdrawing and removing the medical device delivery system from the body passage, and allowing the medical device to remain at the desired site for treatment.

Claim 7 (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 6, further comprising, between steps (d) and (e), the additional steps of: evaluating in greater detail the position of the medical device compared to the position of the desired site to be treated; and adjusting the position of the medical device delivery system based on the evaluation.

Claim 8. (Original) The method as set forth in Claim 6, wherein the second proportional rate is 1:1.